

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER: Goodwin, J. M.

TITLE: TIME DISPLAY APPARATUS

Amendment A: SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 4, revise paragraph [0020] as follows:

Referring to Figure 1, there is shown a watch 10 including a display unit 12, an electronic control unit (~~not shown~~) 12a and a conventional wrist strap 14, the display unit 12 including a color liquid crystal display on which is displayed an indicator portion 16 of variable area.

On page 5, revise paragraph [0023] as follows:

The control unit 12a includes a conventional electronic time-keeping system and is programmed to alter the area of the indicator portion 16 in accordance with a first unit of the time to be displayed, in this case in accordance with the number of minutes of the time to be displayed.

On page 5, revise paragraph [0025] as follows:

These segments of the liquid crystal display are generally rectangular and are arranged along a generally straight line such that the indicator portion 16 has the form of a generally rectangular bar, the length of which is variable. The control unit 12a is programmed to increase the number of minute segments forming the indicator portion 16 by one every minute, and thus the number of colored segments forming the indicator portion 16 corresponds to the number of minutes in the displayed time. Thus, if the indicator portion comprises fifteen colored segments, the display unit 12 is displaying a time of fifteen minutes past the hour, for example.

On page 5, revise paragraph [0027] as follows:

In this example, the control unit 12a is also operative to alter the color of the indicator portion 16 in accordance with a second unit of the time to be displayed. This could, of course, be performed by a second control unit. In this example, the hours of the twelve hour clock are each represented by a distinct color. For example, one o'clock may be represented by a red indicator portion 16, two o'clock by an orange indicator portion 16, three o'clock by a yellow indicator portion 16 etc.

On page 6, revise paragraph [0030] as follows:

Preferably when the time displayed is on the hour exactly, the indicator portion 16 includes sixty colored segments, because representing a time of zero minutes past an hour using a indicator portion 16 comprising zero colored segments would leave the user unable to identify the hour. Preferably, the control unit 12a is programmed to change the color of the indicator portion 16 to correspond to the hour just started rather than the hour just elapsed, thus the color of the indicator portion 16 changes when the number of segments forming the indicator portion 16 increases from fifty nine to sixty.

On page 6, revise paragraph [0031] as follows:

Alternatively, the control unit 12a may be programmed to change the color of the indicator portion 16 when the number of segments forming the indicator portion 16 decreases from sixty to one, in which case it would be necessary for the user to remember that an indicator portion 16 comprising sixty orange segments represents a time of three o'clock (sixty minutes past two) rather than two o'clock.

On page 6, revise paragraph [0032] as follows:

When the time according to the twelve hour clock is displayed, preferably the control unit 12a is programmed such that the display unit 12 also displays an indication as to whether the time is am or present mark. In this example, the display unit 12 is provided with two indicator lights 22, 24 which are labeled AM and PM respectively, and the control unit is programmed to activate the light appropriate to the time of day. Alternatively, the letters AM or PM may be displayed on the LCD screen, or the display unit may include a single LED which is lit up when the time is am or alternatively when the time is present mark.

On page 8, revise paragraph [0037] as follows:

A further embodiment of the invention is shown in Figure 2, which also shows a watch 10, including a display unit 12, a control unit 12a incorporated behind the display unit 12, and a conventional wrist strap 14. As in the previous example, the display unit 12 is a liquid crystal display which displays a colored indicator portion 16 of variable area.

On page 9, revise paragraph [0044] as follows:

It is likely, however, that the one minute segments forming the indicator portion 16 would be too small to be divided into one or ten second sub-portions which enable the user readily to determine the number of seconds. In this case, it would be possible to provide a further indicator portion, the area of which varies according to the number of seconds of the time to be displayed. Such a second indicator portion would operate in the same way as the minute indicator portion 16, and the control unit would be programmed to increase the number of one or ten second segments in

the second indicator portion by one every one second or every ten seconds respectively. The control unit 12a may be programmed to alter the visual appearance (color, pattern etc. ) of the second indicator portion along with the visual appearance-of the minute indicator portion according to the hour of the time to be displayed. Alternatively the visual appearance of the second indicator portion may be kept constant.

On page 9, revise paragraph [0045] as follows:

Moreover, although in the examples give above, the control unit 12a is an electronic control unit, any other appropriate form of control unit capable of varying the area and visual appearance of the indicator portion in accordance with the time to be displayed may be used.